

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Devices and methods are provided for manipulating and supporting an organ. The subject devices are characterized by having an inflatable annular member having a central opening and an organ contacting surface, a vacuum distribution element configured to create a diffused vacuum space in the central opening, and a positioning element having a lumen coupled to a vacuum source and to the inflatable annular member. The subject devices are suitable for use in a variety of surgical approaches and, as such, may be configured to be inserted into a patient's chest cavity through a sheath. Methods are also provided for using the subject devices, where the order of the methods may be altered. Also provided are systems and kits for manipulating and positioning an organ.